

California State Library, Library Development Services
Cooperative Library System Liaison Report
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State Library News

LDS Newsletter

Sign up today for our [newsletter!](#) Please share this with your teams.

Marketing Toolkits

The [California State Library's marketing toolkits](#) are designed to help California libraries deliver consistent messaging about the services and resources you provide to your communities. This is part of an effort to help coordinate statewide messaging about the many great things libraries do every day. We encourage you to use the messages, graphics, and other resources to raise awareness and reinforce the value and impact libraries provide to their communities.

California Freedom To Read Act

The California Freedom to Read Act requires every public library jurisdiction that directly receives any state funding to establish, adopt, and maintain a written and publicly accessible collection development policy for its libraries by January 1, 2026. The State Library has set up [this webpage](#) to help libraries in complying with the law.

At the State Library, we would like to see the language in the bill in your collection development policies as is. We cannot provide any legal interpretation or advice on the language submitted.

We understand that some libraries might experience a challenge with this request, so we urge you reach out very soon if this is the case to collectiondevelopmentpolicy@library.ca.gov. We will offer libraries the opportunity to demonstrate how their policy complies with the language in the new law. This information would come in the form of an attachment to your policy, from the library director, that clearly explains how your policy's language maps to the language in the law. As a reminder, we at the State Library are consultants and administrators and we cannot provide a legal interpretation of your policy.

State Library staff are available to provide technical assistance to libraries who need help with their policies. If you would like to speak with a State Library staff member about your policy or the bill, please email collectiondevelopmentpolicy@library.ca.gov with your request.

Networking and Training

Public Library Directors Networking Call

The next call will be on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. [Register today.](#)

Rural Libraries Community of Practice

The State Library hosts a monthly Community of Practice for Rural Libraries, occurring on the 4th Wednesday at 3:00 PM. Staff at all levels are welcome to attend. The session dates can be viewed on Zoom's [registration page](#).

Open Opportunities

LSTA 2025-2025 Grant Opportunities Open – Apply by 3/12/2025 at Noon

The application period for five [2025-26 LSTA grant opportunities](#) is now open! The application period will close on **Wednesday, March 12 at 12:00 noon**. The deadline cannot be extended for any reason, including technical challenges.

Funding for these opportunities is contingent upon federal funding confirmation, the passage of the 2025-26 state budget, and authorization in the state budget to expend these funds.

Please see a description of each of the five LSTA grant opportunities below and follow the links for more information about each opportunity, including instructions about how to apply. Also see the [LSTA Application Guide](#) for complete guidelines and instructions.

[Community Impact Grants](#)

[Teens Succeed](#)

[Play for All](#)

[Sustainable California Libraries](#)

[eBooks for All California](#)

Please email lstagrants@library.ca.gov with any questions.

Book to Action Funding Opportunity – Apply by 3/28/2025 at Noon

In partnership with the California State Library and the Office of the First Partner of California, the California Library Association will provide up to \$5,000 in reimbursement to California public library outlets to support Book to Action programming with their communities. For details and to apply, visit the [Book to Action opportunity page](#). Application period closes on **Friday, March 28, 2025 at 12:00 noon**. Email youthandfamily@cla-net.org with any questions.

eBooks for All summit

The eBooks for all Summit will be on Wednesday, April 16 from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. [Register Today](#).

This summit will cover not just the Palace project, but the larger landscape of eBooks. The State Librarians of Washington, New Jersey and Georgia will present on efforts in their states and one of the

authors of the California Freedom to Read Act will talk about the bill and its impact on collections. Library workers of all levels are welcome to join.

Career Online High School

The [Career Online High School](#) (COHS) program is open to all public libraries in the state and **there is no required local match to participate**. Libraries may opt into the COHS program at any time using the [COHS Interest Form](#), and will receive training and implementation support, have access to the California State Library's universal scholarship supply, and complete a short mid-year and end-of-year report. COHS questions can be sent to cohs@library.ca.gov

Current Projects and Services

California Library Literacy Services – Ongoing

For information on ongoing training, visit the CLLS training and meeting [calendar](#). Monthly networking/community of practice calls for general CLLS topics, family literacy, and ESL are also scheduled for each month. The Adult Learner Leadership Institute project has announced cohort dates for 2025. The CLLS website has migrated to the California State Library: <https://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/cls/> For more information on any of these programs, or to subscribe to the CLLS staff or CLLS directors' listserv, contact cls@library.ca.gov. CLLS is State funded, and Literacy Initiatives projects are LSTA funded.

California Libraries Learn (CALL) – professional development for all levels of library staff

- Access live and recorded professional development for *all* members of your staff at www.callacademy.org.
- [Subscribe to the CALL Letters newsletter](#) for weekly updates.
- Have a good training idea? Anyone can complete the [CALL for Presentations](#).
- Encourage all levels of your staff to get started with [CALL Academy](#).

LSTA funded.

California Public Libraries Survey

California's 2023-2024 Public Libraries Survey data is being reviewed and libraries may be contacted to correct entry errors. Vetted data will be available for use by the public and all libraries in the spring. For questions, contact LibraryStatistics@library.ca.gov

California Revealed

California Revealed is a statewide initiative that helps public libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other heritage groups digitize, preserve, and provide online access to archival materials documenting the state's histories, arts, and cultures. The kaleidoscopic view of California cultures and histories represented by California Revealed collections offers countless opportunities for individuals and communities looking to integrate sources into their course of study as well as into their daily lives.

The accomplishments of this program dramatically increased access to, and use, of primary source materials related to California histories, arts, and cultures. The greatest impact is the ever-expansive reference resource available at [California Revealed](#). If you visit or have recently visited the CA Revealed website, please take a moment to fill out the [website user survey](#). User feedback is critical in helping the project improve website experience and better understand its benefits to the community. For any comments or questions, please contact team@californiarevealed.org. LSTA-funded.

[Community-Centered Libraries and PolicyMap access for all library workers](#)

The second year of [Community-Centered Libraries](#), a training initiative presented by the State Library and Pacific Library Partnership, focuses on building the skills of public library workers in two areas:

- Creating data visualizations (such as infographics report materials) using an equity lens
- Conducting culturally relevant needs assessments

Learn more about the [April 2025 in-person workshops](#). Register for upcoming webinars and view recordings of previous sessions on the [Community-Centered Libraries Webinars page](#).

The [Community-Centered Libraries initiative](#) includes [free PolicyMap accounts](#) for all California public library staff. The online mapping tool, which includes library jurisdiction boundaries, enables users to view rich data about the communities in your service areas. We will have two new PolicyMap webinars in 2025. [Learn more about PolicyMap](#), register for upcoming trainings, view recordings of past trainings, and [request an account today!](#) LSTA funded.

[COMPASS Project: Resources and Information for Public libraries](#)

At a time when many library systems are facing decreased budgets and may be forced to cut digital subscriptions, a reminder that California offers — at no cost to public schools, districts, local libraries or students — online educational content and tools with [COMPASS: the California Online Media Program for Access and Student Success](#) (formerly the K-12 Online Resources Program). The purpose of COMPASS from the California State Library is to provide equitable access to online library resources to all K-12 public school students and their families, both in the classroom and after school.

COMPASS provides tools ranging from early literacy support (PebbleGo Science, TeachingBooks for Libraries) to science and climate change resources (Gale Interactive Science, Nat Geo Kids, Environmental Studies) to a suite of performing-arts and history/social studies content (20+ Alexander Street collections).

Timely COMPASS Resources and Information for Public Libraries

- [Slides from recent COMPASS for public libraries training](#)

- Need help setting up access to ALL COMPASS resources? [General program sign up form](#)
- Does your library currently offer Capstone’s PebbleGo Science for your youngest patrons? More [information on this statewide resource](#) and [sign up to get PebbleGo Science for your library](#)
- Questions about the [Alexander Street content](#) or set up information? Watch this [recording of a July 2024 training](#) and accompanying [slide deck](#). Remember, the Alexander Street collections include [library performing rights too](#) (with the exception of the National Theatre collection) – a great addition for programming for all ages!
- Stay informed! [Sign up for the COMPASS newsletter](#). And please contact compass@library.ca.gov with any questions.

eBooks for all - Ongoing

The eBooks for All project is going strong in California. Checkouts continue to grow at about 10 percent per month!

Califa recently announced that California now has access to an ‘always available’ collection of approximately 3000 eAudiobooks from Blackstone Audio. If you are on Palace, those titles are automatically available to your users.

If you are interested in joining the project, you can email ebooksforall@library.ca.gov for onboarding steps. Presently, there are grant funds available to cover any onboarding costs.

Parks Pass Program – Ongoing

As a result of budget legislation signed by the Governor in late June, Parks Passes will be accepted by State Parks until December 31, 2025.

A [toolkit](#) is available to support marketing, circulation, programming, and more. It has been updated to make the information cleaner and more accessible. The public can access information on the State Parks Pass at checkoutcastateparks.com

If you need more parks passes, bookmarks, or survey flyers, [please fill out the new order form from State Parks](#). For any questions, email parkspass@library.ca.gov. State of CA funded.

Public Library Staff Education Program (PLSEP) 2024-2025

In December 2024, all applicants were notified about the status of their requests, whether funded, not funded, or placed on a waiting list. View the [PLSEP timeline](#). PLSEP is a partnership of the California State Library and the Southern California Library Cooperative. Contact the PLSEP team at wwalker@socallibraries.org with any questions.

Ready – Or Not: Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project

The [Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project](#) is a California State Library initiative, in partnership with the Northeast Document Conservation Center and Myriad Consulting & Training, to support local assistance grants and support the creation of disaster preparedness plans to protect at-risk art, historically and culturally significant collections that are publicly and privately held among California's underserved and underrepresented communities. To see some of the diverse places the Ready — Or Not team has assessed for disaster preparedness, browse the [Ready — Or Not Participant Showcase](#). State of CA funded.

California organizations that care for cultural and historic resources (e.g., archives, libraries, museums, and tribal nations) can schedule a free emergency preparedness assessment at ["Ready — Or Not": Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project — NEDCC](#). The webpage also provides information sessions tailored to organizations just getting started on their disaster plan, community archives, organizations with limited resources, remote and c museums, tribal cultural heritage organizations, and public libraries. These half-hour online information sessions summarize the state-funded project and explore ways to engage in emergency preparedness consultations. California heritage institutions can request a free emergency preparedness assessment by filling out an [online form](#), emailing CAready@nedcc.org, or calling 855-501-3020.

[Student Success Cards for All](#)

New California legislation signed by the Governor in October 2023 — SB 321 (Ashby) — makes it easier for libraries to put Student Success cards into the hands of every California child who wants one.

Student Success cards give students access to books and online resources from their public library, free of charge, through partnerships with local school districts. The Student Success Cards for All initiative works to ensure that all California students are provided the opportunity to obtain a Student Success card by the third grade.

The legislation asks the State Library to:

- Offer resources to assist public libraries and schools in finding strategies that work best for their communities.
- Coordinate with public libraries to determine the most effective means to ensure each student is provided the opportunity to obtain a Student Success card by third grade.
- Ensure that partnerships between public libraries and schools have been established to issue Student Success cards.

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